



Michigan Association  
of Substance Abuse  
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**Michigan House Judiciary Committee  
Commentary Re: HB 4920 and 4921 – Extreme Drunk Driving Bills**

***Testimony Provided on Behalf of  
The Michigan Association of Substance Abuse  
Coordinating Agencies (MASACA)  
June 27, 2007***

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, my name is Randy O'Brien, and I am writing as President of the Michigan Association of Substance Abuse Coordinating Agencies (MASACA).

Although MASACA has not taken a position on the bills, we do believe that certain elements of the bills are very important in reducing drunk driving in this state:

- the concept of having graduated consequences for behavior that endangers others and that is a result of substance use;
- the efforts to enhance the quality of ignition interlock devices, which can enable individuals with substance use related problems to continue employment and attend treatment sessions while not endangering themselves or others;
- the requirement in the bill to have offenders participate in assessment and treatment programs.

It is clear that additional measures are needed to impact on the small percentage of high – risk drunk drivers (1%) who cause the majority of alcohol related traffic deaths (58%). Graduated penalties, use of existing technology and stepped up enforcement will certainly help; but for the “high-BAC” drivers especially, success will be limited without sufficient funding to support treatment of likely substance use disorders.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important legislation.